Minutes

of the

Twenty-Third Annual Convention

of the

Lutheran Brotherhood

of the

Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska

of the

United Lutheran Church in America

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

May 20, 1940

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF NEBRASKA OF THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA. HELD IN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA, MAY 20, 1940.

The twenty-third annual convention of the Brotherhood of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska convened in the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Grand Island, Nebraska, the Rev. C. B. Harman, pastor, on Monday afternoon at four p. m., May 20, 1940.

President Wm. F. Kedde of Omaha called the meeting to order asking Rev. H. J. Goede, Grace Church, Omaha, Nebraska, to give the opening Devotions due to the absence of Rev. George Krebs, Emerson, Nebraska, through illness. After the singing of hymn 382, "Take My Life and Let It Be," Rev. Goede presented the devotions taken from Romans, the fourteenth chapter, verses one to twelve.

Dr. C. B. Harman, Pastor Loci, welcomed the twenty-third annual convention of the Brotherhood to St. Paul's Church and to the City of Grand Island, wishing them a successful convention also congratulating its members for the fine work that is being done.

President Kedde named the following committees:

Nominations: Rev. A. H. Pinkall, Omaha
Wm. J. Fegley, West Point
D. W. Warren, Fremont

President's Report: Dr. G. K. Rubrecht, North Platte
Alvin Lindquist, Broadwater
James Jensen, Lincoln

Resolutions: Earl Bergren, South Sioux City
Rev. W. A. Klink, West Point
Earl Lessig, Gurley

The President's Report presented by President Wm. F. Kedde was of utmost interest, and was well accepted by those in attendance.

President of Synod Dr. J. C. Hershey of Fremont, Nebraska, brought greetings from that body also wishing the best of success and continuation of the fine work being done by the Brotherhood.

Preceding roll call, a letter of greetings from Executive Secretary Earle W. Bader was read, he expressed satisfaction and confidence in the progress being made both within the organization and the National Convention to be held in Omaha this fall.

Twenty-two delegates answered roll call, the re-

ports of their activities the past year were most interesting and encouraging, many reporting increased memberships. Mr. Harold G. Gamerl, General Chairman of the National Convention Committee spoke briefly on the progress being made toward a most successful convention in October.

D. L. Tyrrell, Secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting being approved as read, were placed on file.

Harold L. Wochner, Treasurer, presented his report for the year, it being audited and found to be correct by members of the Executive Committee, Wm. C. Sund, Chairman. Moved, accepted and placed on file.

Due to the fact that our time was somewhat limited, the outstanding bills were ok-d unanimously by the Executive Committee, with no objection from the floor were ordered paid.

The next annual convention will as usual be held in connection with the annual convention of the Nebraska Synod.

The report of the Nominating Committee was as follows:

We the members of the Nominating Committee for the Twenty-third Annual Brotherhood Convention held at Grand Island, May 20, 1940 present the following:

President.....Wm. F. Kedde, Omaha
Vice-President....Wm. C. Sund, South Sioux City
Secretary.....D. L. Tyrrell, Lincoln
Treasurer.....Harold L. Wochner, York

It was moved and seconded that these, the present officers, all be retained for the ensuing year, unanimously accepted. Due to the fact that delegates to the National Convention were to be elected also the Nominating Committee made the following recommendation that upon the request of our Executive Secretary, Mr. Earle W. Bader our membership should be considered for the privilege of having six delegates at large at the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood Convention, we therefor present for your approval the following, the five present Executive Convention Committee Members, Harold Gamerl, Wm. Parsons, Wm. F. Kedde, Harold Ockerby, V. B. Elsefer and the Secretary of our State Brotherhood D. L. Tyrrell, after a short discussion, and response by President Kedde, Rev. E. C. Mortensen, Benedict, Nebraska, led in prayer. The meeting adjourned to meet in a fellowship banquet.

With President Kedde presiding the evening program was opened by the singing of the Brotherhood song, "The Sign of the Cross and the Heart."

Invocation, Dr. Leland H. Lesher, Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Lieder Krantz Quartette presented several vocal numbers much to the liking of the one hundred and seventy ladies and gentlemen present. This was followed by community singing led by Rev. G. Gieschen, Wayne, Nebraska.

The offering taken amounted to twenty-four dollars and forty-five cents, this to be turned over to the National Brotherhood Treasurer.

Following the installation of the newly elected officers by the President of Synod, Dr. J. C. Hershey, Fremont, Nebraska, the speaker of the evening, Professor H. D. Hoover, D. D., Ph. D., Gettysburg Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa., was introduced by Dr. C. B. Harman. Dr. Hoover's inspiring message "Be Men of God" was most graciously received by an appreciative audience. Rev W. H. Greever, Secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America also conveyed a brief message.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was presented by Mr. Earl Berggren. Be it resolved:

1. That the President's recommendations be adopted.

2. That the recommendation in the President's report, the minutes of this meeting, Treasurer's report and President's report, be printed in the minutes of the Nebraska Synod, for the year 1940 be adopted.

3. That we express our appreciation to Dr. Harman and the people of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church for inviting the Brotherhood to hold their Convention here, also the ladies of the Church for preparing such a fine banquet.

4. That we thank our State President, Mr. Kedde, and the other officers for the faithful work they have rendered in the past year.

5. That we be thankful for the growing spirit of co-operation shown by members of the State Brotherhood.

6. That continued effort be made to establish an active Brotherhood in every Congregation in the Nebraska Synod.

7. That we express our thanks to the speaker of the evening, Dr. H. D. Hoover, for the splendid and inspiring message.

Respectfully submitted: The Committee, Earl M. Berggren, Rev. W. A. Klink, Earl V. Lessig.

The motion and second for the adoption of this report as a whole prevailed.

Following a word of welcome to our guests, members of the Midwest Synod and the many Ladies present, the meeting was then adjourned by the singing of "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds." Rev. E. F. Rohlfing, Broadwater, Nebraska, led in prayer.

D. L. Tyrrell, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT—1939-1940
May 20, 1940

To the Officers, Delegates and members of the Brotherhood of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska:

It is with thanks in our hearts to Our God and Father, as we give to you the report of our activities for the past year. This our Twenty-third Annual Convention is being held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Grand Island, and like a young person who has reached the age of twenty-three, we also feel we are getting older and more fitted for the work to which we have been called. May the Lord grant us the strength and wisdom to fulfill that which is required of us; namely the upbuilding of His Kingdom, and to be a help to our beloved Lutheran Church.

On August 9, 1939, in accordance with the instructions given us at the 1939 Convention, we together with other organizations of our Church, forwarded an official invitation to the officers of the U. C. L. A. Brotherhood, to hold their Twelfth Biennial Convention in Nebraska, with Omaha as its center. After much discussion and prayer to our God for guidance, this invitation was accepted and on October 12 it was clinched, by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Earle W. Bader, who was in our midst at that time. Will refer to this coming event from time to time in this report.

Have by letter and personal contact, been in touch with the Pastors and Brotherhoods of our Synod. And while a few deemed it not necessary to answer us, we found co-operation in every respect. We are sorry again to report, that several of our congregations do not have a men's organization, due to the fact that the Pastors have not yet seen the vision of the benefits of a Brotherhood. May the Lord grant a change of heart and mind towards this the Auxiliary of the Church.

May 28, was invited to a Brotherhood supper at Grace Church, Omaha. And addressed the men present.

June 22, spoke to the men of the Grace Church in West Point, at their regular meeting.

July 16, attended Church and group meetings with the men of First Church in York. Ending with a picnic and baseball game.

July 23, had a conference with the men of St. Luke's Church, Omaha, in regards to the Convention.

July 30, met with the men of First Church, South Sioux City, about inviting the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood to come to Omaha, Nebraska.

August 22, visited the Brotherhood of First Church in South Sioux City, and spoke to them about Brotherhood work and the Convention. Men from Salem Church, Dakota City and Salem, Ponca, were present at this meeting.

September 3, was invited to a Brotherhood Rally at Broadwater, and spoke to the congregation in the morning service and in the afternoon to men from Sidney, Dalton-Gurley and Broadwater.

September 17, after the morning service, discussed with the men of the Grace Brotherhood, Omaha, the coming Convention.

October 11-13, attended the Convention of the American Federation of Lutheran Brotherhoods in Detroit, Michigan. The meetings were well attended and a close fellowship was among the brethren of the different Synodical bodies. The time is drawing near when the laymen of the great Lutheran Church will not only sing: "We Are Not Divided, All One Body We," but it will become a reality. You may feel honored that your President was Chairman of the Auditing committee.

October 15, was in Lincoln at Grace Church for a meeting in

regards to State Brotherhood work. At which time Mr. Earle W. Bader was present.

October 17, a meeting was called in St. Luke's Church, Omaha, with 97 men present from different parts of the Eastern district of the State. Both from the Nebraska and Midwest Synods, to clinch the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood Convention and elect a General committee.

November 5, a Rally was called at Ohiowa by the Brotherhoods and congregations of the Midwest Synod. At which time your president gave the principal address; speaking on Brotherhood and Convention. I wish to make the statement that as the Midwest Synod Brotherhoods do not have a Synodical organization, they are working with us in close harmony, considering me as much their president as the organization of the Nebraska State Brotherhood. Therefore, made the statement to Mr. Bader, that this is the reason we use the name State Brotherhood, instead of Synodical Brotherhood. May God grant the coming of the day, that we will be united into one State organization.

November 12, a meeting was called in Midland College, Fremont, for the purpose of discussing ways and means for the raising of necessary funds for defraying the expenses of the coming Convention; nearly 40 men were present.

November 15, was invited to a Father and Son gathering, to speak about Brotherhood work in Trinity Church, Beatrice, for the purpose of organizing this group into a men's organization.

January 21, spoke in Fremont to the men of the Brotherhood class of Salem Church, about the coming Convention.

January 26, was invited to be present at the first Brotherhood meeting of the men from First Lutheran Church, Omaha.

January 28, attended a Brotherhood Rally which was held in Grace Church, Lincoln. The weather was not of the best, however, 43 men were present. This was the beginning of district group meetings for which we had been hoping and praying.

January 29, was present at the regular meeting of St. Luke's Church Brotherhood, Omaha. Speaking to them about the work of the Brotherhood and Convention.

February 13, the men of the Brotherhood of Grace Church, Omaha, in their regular meeting, invited me to speak to them about Brotherhood work.

February 15, the Omaha District, had called a Brotherhood Rally in Our Redeemer Church, with 53 men present. It was the beginning of bringing together in closer fellowship the men of the Churches in this District.

April 7, a Rally of the Midwest Brotherhoods was called at St. Peter's Church, Creston. The weather was bad and roads impossible, yet 41 men and about 30 ladies were at this meeting.

April 14, the newly organized Brotherhood in Dalton-Gurley congregation had called a Brotherhood Rally for the Panhandle District. Men came from Sidney, Potter, Oshkosh, Lewellen, Lodge Pole and Broadwater, total present, 34 men and nearly as many ladies.

April 19, an Inter-Synodical Brotherhood Rally was held in Immanual Lutheran Church (A. L. C.) Omaha. Present were members of the Augustana, Norwegian, Danish, American Lutheran and U. L. C. A. Brotherhoods. By count 175 were at this meeting and were brought to closer fellowship. Mr. Earle W. Bader, Executive Secretary, U. L. C. A. Brotherhood, gave the main address on "The Leaders of Tomorrow," while your Brotherhood President was chosen as the Presiding officer. May the Lord grant that the men of the different Lutheran Churches come together more often in joint meetings, for the upbuilding of the Kingdom of our Master.

April 20, invited to be present at the Annual Conference of

the Nebraska Brotherhood of the Augustana Synod. Went to Wahoo and represented our State Brotherhood. Mr. Bader, spoke in behalf of the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood.

April 21, a Convention committee meeting was called in Midland College, Fremont, 57 persons being present.

April 28, a Brotherhood Rally was held in York. However, due to rain 20 men and 14 ladies came to this meeting. Even with this small group, we felt the Spirit of God in our midst, urging us on for greater things.

May 6, being asked by Pastor C. M. N. Alexander to come to Scribner, and help organize the "Men of the Church." A storm kept the men from attending. Spoke to those present, and have been assured that sometime during this month this group will be organized.

May 8, the Brotherhood of Immanual Lutheran Church (A. L. C.), Omaha, invited me to be with them and to speak on the subject of Brotherhood work. Realizing that we all have the same problems to face.

Attended all meetings of the Brotherhood of Our Redeemer, in Omaha.

This has been a year of unusual activities, due to the coming Convention of the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood, October 6-8, and the Convention of our beloved United Lutheran Church in America, October 9-15. You will note by the reports which will be brought by the delegates of the Brotherhoods in our State, the work and activities of these organizations. Some have to be commended for their willingness to serve and help. While others were not even willing to show us they are existing. God has blessed us and made us a blessing to those with whom we came in contact, and a help to our Church. Let us keep on doing these things which are required of us, especially the six objectives to which we have ascribed ourselves.

Wish to thank each one personally, who has given me the support of making this the best year ever. The officers and the Executive members appointed: Rev. George Krebs, Emerson and Rev. E. F. Rohlfing, Broadwater.

The Membership committee: Mr. Anton Manser, West Point, Chairman, Mr. Carl W. Reuter and Mr. E. H. Anderson, Fremont. Publicity, Mr. O. L. Sturtevant, Lincoln.

Wish to make the following recommendations for your consideration.

First—In as much as we are instructed by our National body to have District Rallies, for the purpose of closer co-operation and fellowship.

We as members of the Nebraska State Brotherhood, pledged ourselves to follow these instructions and organize group meetings whenever possible.

Second—The promise was made by your Executive officers, to have at least twenty-four (24) active Brotherhoods, before the coming U. L. C. A. Brotherhood Convention. And that all Brotherhoods in the State become active by paying the dues to State and National Brotherhoods; and give their fullest support to the incoming officers, to obtain the object of twenty-four (24) Brotherhoods.

Third—In as much as the U. L. C. A. Brotherhood will hold their Twelfth Biennial Convention in Nebraska, with Omaha as its center, October 6-8.

That we as members of this body, pledge ourselves with the help of God, to make this Convention the best ever; by our material and spiritual help.

Fourth—That the minutes of this meeting; Treasurer's report and President's report, be printed in the Minutes of the Nebraska Synod for the year 1940.

Also wish to report the fullest co-operation and co-ordination

with the five Brotherhoods of the Midwest Synod, to whom we extend herewith, our heart-felt thanks.

The God of peace, give us as an organization, the strength, wisdom and grace in the coming year, to do the work given us to do. As outlined in the "Six Objectives." May we fulfill the "First Objective," to which we have ascribed ourselves: "By the inspiration and help of the Holy Spirit, to bring the unsaved to Christ."

Respectfully submitted,
Wm. F. Kedde, President

REPORT OF TREASURER OF NEBRASKA STATE BROTHERHOOD U. L. C.

Receipts

Balance on Hand May 9	$ 57.28
Benedict, Zion Lutheran, 1939 Dues	10.00
Collection at Banquet	22.41
Messiah, Broadwater, February 10	8.00
First Lutheran, South Sioux City, February 10	10.00
St. Luke's Omaha, February 26	10.00
Grace, West Point, (State Dues) February 28	5.00
Salem, Fremont, March 15	12.50
First Lutheran, North Platte, (State Dues), March 17	5.00
Redeemer, Omaha, (State Dues) March 21	5.00
St. Luke's, Emerson, March 27	10.00
Grace Lutheran, Lincoln, April 16	12.50
Dalton-Gurley, Dalton, (State Dues) April 16	5.00
Grace Lutheran, Omaha, (State Dues) April 21	5.00
Zion Lutheran, Benedict, April 20	10.00
First Lutheran, York, (State Dues) April 22	5.00
First Lutheran, North Platte, (National Dues) May 15	5.00
Total	$197.69

Disbursements

May 9 Kedde	$ 4.25
June 11 Kedde	3.50
June 12 E. W. Bader	27.91
August 12 Mr. Wood, Pres. Report in Minnesota	20.64
December 7 E. W. Bader, Brotherhood Cut	1.25
Jan. 20 Advanced Omaha Convention Committee	25.00
February 20 Wm. Zimmerman, Transportation	2.00
February 10 A. B. Printing Co., Membership Cards	3.50
February 15 E. W. Bader, Dues	9.00
March 15 E. W. Bader, Dues	13.50
April 16 E. W. Bader, Dues	16.00
May 16 A. B. Printing Co., Membership Cards	3.71
May 18 E. W. Bader, Brotherhood Songs	1.50
May 18 E. W Bader, Dues	11.00
May 21 Kedde	7.50
May 21 Tyrrell	4.40
May 21 A. F. Manser	1.18
May 21 H. L. Wochner	1.35
May 21 Dr. Harman, Speaker	10.00
Total	$167.19
Total Received	$197.69
Total Disbursed	167.19
Balance on Hand May 21	$ 30.50

Harold L. Wochner, Treasurer